



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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State Now Accepting Credit Cards, E-Checks for Quarterly Unemployment Insurance Taxes

INDIANAPOLIS (Feb. 27, 2006) – Indiana businesses can for the first time make their quarterly unemployment insurance tax payments with a credit card or e-check online, or by telephone, officials from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today.

“In our efforts to improve customer service, we wanted to give Indiana businesses a new, convenient option for satisfying these tax obligations,” said Ron Stiver, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. “This is one more in a series of important reforms we are making to modernize our unemployment insurance system. With this new tax payment alternative, companies will now have the flexibility to pay taxes securely over the telephone or through the internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

The Department is teaming with Official Payments Corp., a subsidiary of Tier Technologies, Inc. to allow businesses to make these payments using a Visa®, American Express®, Discover®, MasterCard® or e-check. Employers wishing to pay their unemployment insurance obligations electronically should visit the Department of Workforce Development’s web site at www.in.gov/dwd or call 1-800-2PAY-TAX and use jurisdiction code 2435.

Official Payments charges citizens a convenience fee for the service. The fees range from 2.5 percent of the total paid if paid by credit card, to a flat \$3.00 if paid by electronic check. Citizens using credit or debit cards with bonus rewards programs may, depending on their card's program, earn reward points, airline frequent flyer miles or cash back for paying their taxes and fees.

The technology improvements announced today represent another step forward for the department as it continues to upgrade its various jobs and employment services for workers and employers throughout the state. The agency is in the midst of a three-year unemployment insurance modernization project that will, when fully implemented, provide a web-based system with improved access and ease of use for both claimants and employers. Last year, the department also announced that unemployment insurance recipients would receive their unemployment benefits via MasterCard® or Visa® branded

debit cards, a move that will speed the delivery of payments to claimants, improve customer service and save the state an estimated \$1.8 million per year.

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.